

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LIBREV 00358 101627Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 (ISO)W

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R 101550Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6199

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 0358

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GB, FR

SUBJ: DEPARTURE OF FRENCH AMBASSADOR

REF: LIBREVILLE 0286 (NOTAL)

1. ALTHOUGH NOT YET OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED, NEWS OF FRENCH AMBASSADOR RIBO'S IMMINENT DEPARTURE (REPORTED REFTEL) IS RAPIDLY SPREADING AROUND LIBREVILLE. RIBO HIMSELF MENTIONED IT CONFIDENTIALLY TO ME ALONG WITH FACT DELAUNEY RETURNING.

2. RIBO'S DEPARTURE SOME SIX MONTHS AFTER PRESIDENT BONGO HAD REQUESTED AND OBTAINED REPLACEMENT OF FRENCH AID DIRECTOR DUMONTET HIGHLIGHTS FACTS (A) BONGO NOT EASIEST CHIEF OF STATE TO GET ALONG WITH EVEN FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF COUNTRY FURNISHING CONSIDERABLE AID AND (B) FRENCH CLEARLY CONSIDER GABON'S ECONOMIC POTENTIAL SUFFICIENTLY IMPORTANT TO GO ALONG WITHOUT PROTEST OR PUBLICITY WITH PRESIDENT'S RATHER HIGH HANDED MANNER OF DISPOSING OF FRENCH OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES.
MCKESSON

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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